

Dr. Biggs served in various professional capacities as he pursued his doctorate. He participated in important research as a Molluscan DNA-Barcoder and Specialist of Chemical Ecology of Conidae for the Museum of Natural History in Paris. This research project brought him to the South Pacific country of Vanuatu where he worked with 50 other marine scientists. Dr. Biggs also worked as a forensics consultant for the office of Forensic Science, New Jersey State Police and he now brings these forensic skills to assist in local police efforts.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I commend and congratulate Dr. Jason Biggs for his achievements and his service to our island community. I look forward to hearing of his future academic successes at the University of Guam and his future contributions to our island.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF ELDER ABUSE

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2008*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse for their dedication to protecting the safety, security and dignity of America's most vulnerable citizens.

The National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCEA) is a multidisciplinary association of researchers, practitioners, educators, and advocates dedicated to protecting seniors. In 1988 Dr. Rosalie Wolf founded NCEA and served as its President until her passing 2000. Under her guidance and the leadership of her successors, Randolph Thomas and Pam Teaster, NCEA kept diligently pursued its mission to prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older persons and adults with disabilities through research, advocacy, public and professional awareness, interdisciplinary exchange, and coalition building.

In 1989 NCEA published the Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, what is now the Nation's leading source of information on research and practice in the field. NCEA has devoted itself to, and impacted the national debate on elder abuse prevention in a manner that has proved to be both substantial and comprehensive. NCEA has participated in forums to set national policy to various Institutions such as the National Institute of Medicine, the Department of Justice and the Health Resources and Services Administration. In addition, they have forged a strong international presence and including participation in the United Nations Year of the Older Person, leadership involvement with the United Kingdom Action on Elder Abuse, Latin American Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse as well as the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

It has been my honor to work closely with NCEA in the past 5 years. NCEA was one of the five founding organizations of the bipartisan Elder Justice Coalition, and as the sponsor of H.R. 1783, the Elder Justice Act, I am proud to have their support and grateful for

NCEA's consistent leadership in the work of the Coalition.

On March 28, 2008, NCEA will celebrate their 20th anniversary with a celebration right here in our Nation's capital, and I am proud to recognize NCEA's 20 years of dedication to the protection and safety of our aging population.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate NCEA on their 20th year of hard work on behalf of our Nation's seniors, and I wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING TARAN RAY WINNIE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 14, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Taran Ray Winnie, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Taran has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Taran has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Taran Ray Winnie for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN J. HALL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2008*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the (H. Con. Res. 312) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013:

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly voted yesterday against the substitute budget offered by Ms. LEE of California. I express that reluctance because this substitute included a number of individual provisions that I am very proud to support.

I strongly applaud the fact that the substitute budget included full funding for vital education programs, including No Child Left Behind. I believe Congress must continue working toward the goal of eliminating unfunded mandates. For too long, President Bush and his Republicans supporters have forced local communities to bear the brunt of the cost of No Child Left Behind's mandates. This has caused undue stress on local government's budgets, and led to an unacceptable increase in local property taxes in the nineteenth district of New York and across the country.

I'm also proud to support the commitment this bill has for full, guaranteed funding for veterans' healthcare. The ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have created a new generation of veterans with new healthcare needs. We must make sure that the VA healthcare system will accommodate this new influx of patients, while continuing to provide high quality care for veterans from previous generations. As a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am committed to the fact that the VA must honor the pact we make with our soldiers; if they fight to defend our Nation, our Nation will always make sure they have the care they need.

I was also pleased that the substitute budget included additional steps to provide more immediate help to those people struggling to deal with our troubled economy. I was proud to support the bipartisan economic stimulus package when it passed the House earlier this year, and while it was a good start, I believe we need more relief specifically targeted to working and middle class families who are feeling the worst right now. Relief for these people will only come from our commitment to increasing assistance for unemployment insurance, food stamps, Federal Medical Assistance Percentage payments to states, and housing assistance as is contained in the substitute budget.

Although I've highlighted these specific provisions, there are a number of other highly commendable parts of this amendment I would have been proud to support. The proposal includes much-needed provisions to crack down on corporate welfare and a commitment to expand health coverage to all Americans, which I wholeheartedly support. It also includes the repeal of the Bush tax cuts, which have helped to put us on the path to fiscal ruin while providing no relief for working families.

I strongly support these provisions, and would embrace the opportunity to vote for them. Unfortunately, after years of Republican rule, our Nation finds itself in the midst of a fiscal nightmare, and I believe the only way to restore some semblance of financial discipline is through the admirable budget that chairman SPRATT has put together. It is a difficult decision, but one I do not make lightly. I am also concerned that the substitute amendment failed to include much needed reform of the AMT. The AMT unnecessarily burdens over 30,000 families in my district and threatens to dip further into the middle class. Any budget that fails to deal with the AMT fails to deal with one of our most pressing national concerns.

The underlying budget resolution, which I did vote for, contains significant funding increases for many of the programs I have discussed. The resolution also balances the budget and provides vital AMT relief for taxpayers. In light of our difficult fiscal situation, I believe that the underlying budget represents a strong step forward, and I believe it was deserving of my support.